

## **SB 262**

Public Health Committee Testimony  
Friday March 8, 2013  
Barbara Albert, Hartford Renter

Good afternoon Public Health Committee co-chairs Senator Gerratana, and Representative Johnson, also to everyone else.

My name is Barbara Albert, renter, registered voter in Hartford, CT. Human Being. I'm on Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security Disability. I have multiple medical challenges, including mental illnesses. I am called indigent; I am called unemployable, even though I have several volunteer jobs, that I'm able to participate in when not too sick. I did have 'regular' jobs before my illnesses became too overwhelming. Due to my "medical treatment", and according to 'scientific studies', people like me will die, on average, twenty five years earlier than the general population.

This is my testimony, regarding Proposed Bills S.B. No. 262, AN ACT REQUIRING NOTICE BY PSYCHIATRISTS CONCERNING PATIENTS THAT MAY POSE A THREAT TO THEMSELVES OR OTHERS. As well as Proposed H.B. 5992, AN ACT CONCERNING THE TREATMENT OF PERSONS WITH PSYCHIATRIC DISABILITIES.

I very much oppose both of these Proposed Bills. S.B. No. 262, already is law. Psychiatric professionals already are mandated to report this, if they truly believe that someone is a threat to themselves or others. I have enough difficulty trusting while speaking about how I think or feel. This was deeply ingrained in me, as surviving the abuse I did. I learned a long time ago, that thoughts are not actions, that as long as I spoke, or somehow communicated about, anything, because I didn't used to speak very much, that as long as I somehow spoke, or drew, or found a way to express myself, particularly stuff that I thought was 'weird', or 'uncomfortable', that I would be less likely to act on whatever the 'uncomfortableness' was/is. This holds true, to this day. I also believe, a law like this would further stigmatize. I have, just crawled back in my impenetrable walls, of screaming silence. I've ended up being much more self destructive and more apt to being hospitalized, involuntarily, because I just did not care whether I was alive or not, because I already felt dead anyway.

I also very much oppose Proposed Bill H.B.5992. Why do Human Brings with "psychiatric disabilities", get treated less than Humane, unlike other Human Beings with other kinds of medical conditions? I believe this Bill to be discriminatory, and display blatant ignorance.

(Ignorance; as in, lacking knowledge.) What kind of “health care providers” would have access to my Federally Protected Health records? I’m one of many people who don’t have ‘family’. I’m an adult. Got questions? Speak with me. I also believe, me being an adult, it is considered in “Patients Rights”, “for me to be included in my discharge plans”, “with my treatment team”, “not to include anyone else”, “without my expressed written permission”. I also believe in being your own advocate, especially when it comes to medical matters. All my doctors are aware of all my medical conditions. How could they even attempt to help without knowing?

Please do not support S.B. No. 262, or H.B. 5992. Thank you for listening.

Respectfully Submitted, by Barbara Albert